

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 03194 181051Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 MCT-02 SY-05 HA-05
SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15
DODE-00 ICA-11 PA-01 COME-00 EB-08 AID-05 /114 W
-----024471 190636Z /10
R 181001Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4495
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 3194

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, PINS, SHUM, SW, ES
SUBJECT: MEDIA GIVING HEAVY PLAY TO KIDNAPPING OF SWEDISH BUSINESS-
MEN IN EL SALVADOR

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR 4264, (B) STATE 209011

1. SWEDISH MEDIA CONTINUE TO GIVE HEAVY SOMEWHAT SENSATIONALIST
PLAY TO KIDNAPPING ON AUGUST 14 IN SAN SALVADOR OF LOCAL MANAGER
OF L M ERICSSON FIRM KJELL BJORK. IN ABSENCE THUS FAR OF DEMANDS
OR ANY MESSAGE WHATEVER FROM ABDUCTORS COVERAGE HAS BEEN LIMITED
TO SPECULATION ON MOTIVES BEHIND DASTARDLY ACT. CONSENSUS IS THAT
BJORK WAS TAKEN MAINLY TO GIVE PUBLICITY TO EXPLOITS OF SO-CALLED
GUERRILLA GROUP AGAINST GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR BUT INFORMATION
ON WHICH GROUP OR GROUPS MAY BE INVOLVED IS SCANTY. OTHER POSSIBLE
EXPLANATION WAS THAT BJORK IS VICTIM OF "REVENGE" FROM DISMISSED
L M ERICSSON LOCAL EMPLOYEE OR THAT ABDUCTORS WERE ATTEMPTING
TO EXTRACT L M ERICSSON "SECRETS" FROM BJORK.

2. L M ERICSSON HEADQUARTERS IN STOCKHOLM SAID ON AUGUST 15
THAT THEY WOULD PAY NO RANSOM FOR BJORK IF SUCH IS DEMANDED. COMPANY
HAS ALSO MADE KNOWN THAT BJORK TAKES MEDICINE REGULARLY BUT DOES
NOT HAVE AN ACUTE NEED OF IT. MFA SOURCE SAID BJORK HAS "INACTIVE"
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TUBERCULOSIS. COMPANY OFFICIALS MET ON AUGUST 17 WITH MFA SEC GEN
LEIF LEIFLAND AND RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT GOS IS DOING EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE TO ASSIST EFFORTS TO GAIN BJORK'S RELEASE. LEIFLAND'S
COMMENTS INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT, UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES,
THERE WAS LITTLE ANYONE COULD DO BUT WAIT FOR WORD FROM THE
PERPETRATORS.

3. LEIFLAND HAS ASKED AMBASSADOR TO EXPRESS GOS THANKS AND APPRECIATION FOR DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION TO EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR TO EXTEND COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO SWEDISH AMBASSADOR HELLERYD WHO IS NOW ON THE SCENE, AND FOR COOPERATION WITH SWEDISH EMBASSY WASHINGTON (REF B).
DENNEDY-MINOTT

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Message Attributes

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